

S/est

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP61S00527A000200070030-6

SECRET

Chief, Economic Research

23 April 1958

Chief, Services Division

Proposed GRR Preparation of the Construction Materials Section  
of NIS Section 63 on Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries

1. Although the standard outline for the construction materials subsection of NIS Section 63 appears adequate, the actual preparation of this subsection on the Sino-Soviet Bloc is not up to the standards which prevail in the Construction Branch of Services Division.
2. The subsection on construction materials is the only one in Section 63 on Sino-Soviet Bloc countries still being prepared outside CIA. Although nominally the responsibility of Army, the construction materials sections are actually prepared by USGS.
3. Analysts in USGS do not have a continuing responsibility for construction materials in the Sino-Soviet Bloc and start each of the NIS projects from scratch on a one-time basis. Working from a very limited source list, the analyst produces a research product that is always incomplete, quite often inadequate, and usually rather dated.
4. Because of the nature of the more normal USGS responsibilities, the NIS sections on construction materials are rather unbalanced, containing more geological discussion than is really useful in an economic chapter but lacking an adequate presentation of the economic aspects.
5. GRR not only has more available source material than USGS but because it has a continuing responsibility for reporting on construction materials in the Sino-Soviet Bloc has built up a certain amount of expertise which enables it to evaluate and analyze available information in a much more rational sense than is possible in USGS.
6. I would recommend that future sections on this subject be prepared in ER/S/CST inasmuch as the outright preparation of the material will require little more time than is now spent "repairing" the USGS drafts and the product may be made more timely and more consonant with the basic objectives of the 60 series.

25X1A9a

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - addressee  
2 - D/S

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP61S00527A000200070030-6

ORR/D/S: [REDACTED] : jd/2812 (23 April 1958)